

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A method of decreasing the incidence of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus in at-risk populations[[],]:

~~o~~Orally administering 10,000 to 30,000 units of IFN- $\alpha$  to individuals of said at-risk population;  
and

~~i~~Immediately swallowing to ingest said IFN- $\alpha$ , thereby decreasing the incidence of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus in the at-risk populations.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said interferon is selected from the group consisting of human recombinant interferon, rat interferon and murine interferon.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said interferon is administered every other day.

12-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A method of delaying the onset of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus in at-risk populations, comprising:

~~o~~Orally administering 10,000 to 30,000 units of IFN- $\alpha$  to individuals of said at-risk population;  
and

~~i~~Immediately swallowing to ingest said IFN- $\alpha$ , thereby delaying the onset of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus in the at-risk populations.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said IFN- $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of human recombinant interferon, rat interferon and murine interferon.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method of reducing blood glucose levels in a human comprising:

oOrally administering 10,000 to 30,000 units of IFN- $\alpha$  to said human;

aAnd immediately swallowing to ingest said IFN- $\alpha$ , thereby reducing blood glucose levels in said human.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said interferon is selected from the group consisting of human recombinant interferon, rat interferon and murine interferon.

21-22. (Canceled)